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THE

RANGE

GRAZING

RIDER

SERVICE

AN ETCHING ON WOOD

Director Rutledge was the happy recipient, recently, of a portrait of himself etched in wood with a heated etching pen by Paul T. Roch, project assistant at the Antelope Springs CCC camp, Millard, Utah.

The etching, made by Paul in his spare time from a photograph, is an excellent likeness. It was presented to the Director in Salt Lake City last week, by Paul and the personnel of the Utah region, as a token of gratitude and appreciation of his leadership, guidance, sound judgment, and inspiration.

Already a student of art, Paul became adept with the pyro-etching pen while painting and burning district boundary and other signs for Grazing Service use. Paul who has here demonstrated the practical application of the training he has received in the Civilian Conservation Corps is a booster for the Corps and the opportunities afforded for training and study. He says he has received encouragement and inspiration in the CCC and that "it is the answer to fulfilling the determination I have to succeed."

Paul is 23 years of age. He was born in Ohio of Czecho-Slovakian parents but returned to Czecho-Slovakia when he was five years old. He lived in that country until he was 18, when he returned alone to work and study in America. He enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938, and in December 1939 he was made a project assistant and assigned to the Antelope Springs camp.

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Special Exhibit

Members of the Eighth American Scientific Congress meeting in Washington May 10 to 18 will be invited to view a special exhibit showing the activities of various bureaus of the Interior Department in the art gallery of the Interior Building. Included in the exhibit will be appropriate maps, tabulations, and pictures depicting the work of the Grazing Service.

FIRE LOOK-OUT

Big Southern Butte, northwest of Blackfoot, Idaho, may be rough and rocky and very difficult to scale, but it rises 3,000 feet above a vast area of broad, flat grazing land and forms an extremely advantageous point for a look-out station.

Such a "natural" is not being overlooked by the Idaho region in establishing fire look-out stations on the public domain areas. Because of its rough and rocky and steep sides, a truck trail to the top of the butte is prohibitive, however, a pack trail is being built over which, equipment, supplies, and materials will be carried to establish the look-out station and furnish the necessary accommodations for look-out personnel.

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THE BUFFALO

(From an article by James S. Andrews, district grazier, Utah.)

Often times when I look at the buffalo on the seal of the Interior Department or the Grazing Service badge, I think of how this once mighty monarch of the same range areas that are now included in Federal grazing districts has met the tragic fate of near-extinction in a comparatively few years.

The buffalo is a true North American product. It has been estimated that 60,000,000 head roamed the great plains region of western United States a hundred years ago; today there are only about 4,000 head in continental United States.

The wanton slaughter of this magnificent animal for hides, tallow, and other products began shortly before 1860, and by 1895 the great buffalo herds seen by our pioneer forefathers had vanished and only the white, bleached bones of the ones killed by the sharp-shooting guns of the buffalo hunters remained. One of our greatest natural resources from which man had obtained food and clothing for many years had been obliterated.

It seems incredible that a herd totaling millions of powerful animals could have been reduced to a pitiful few in so short a time. Yet it did happen, and it shows that man can be destructive and, with the aid of natural enemies, quickly can destroy a valuable natural resource. If it had not been for a few hard-thinking and far-sighted Americans, who can be numbered among our first conservationists, perhaps the buffalo today would be only a memory to a few, and a legend to others.

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### DEATH STALKS IN GAY GARBS

Bright blossoms, harbingers of spring in most sections of the United States, are messengers of death in many instances in the western range country, where eradication of poisonous plants from Federal grazing areas is an important conservation task confronting the Grazing Service.

With records showing that sometimes sheepherders lost half their bands through the animals' eating the colorful but deadly larkspur, milkweed, and other toxic weeds, a renewed drive for eradication of the plants is included among the plans of the Service for the coming season. CCC enrollees under the supervision of the Grazing Service will carry out the eradication work, grubbing the fatal flowers from the ground with a few swift strokes of a mattock.

As an additional means of protection to the livestock which roam the Federal grazing lands, arrangements are being made to keep the cattle and sheep off the the infested areas, while field men of the Service have been furnished with exceptionally graphic pictures of the poisonous plants in Utah, as an aid to identification in this season's eradication work.

Since the inception of the poisonous plant eradication work by the CCC Grazing forces in April 1935, more than 350,000 acres of the Federal range have been embraced in operations covering 10 western States. (Current Conservation, April 1940.)

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### A THREE-YEAR RECORD

No serious accident for 3 years, 773,762 man-hours, 405,000 truck-miles—that was the commendable record celebrated by a special dinner and program at the Conservancy Beach Side Camp, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on March 28. The camp, which forms the headquarters for the enrollees of the Albuquerque drafting office, is operated cooperatively by the Soil Conservation Service, the Forest Service, and the Grazing Service.

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### EVEN UNPALATABLE PLANTS SERVE A PURPOSE

Though some folks may hesitate to agree, unpalatable plants on flats and in canyons and draws have at least one redeeming quality — they retard run-off and allow more moisture to seep into the ground. Because of unpalatable plants in the bottoms of canyons livestock are forced to graze on hillsides and rougher areas and hence do not concentrate in the draws and make trails which would soon wash into gullies when hard rains fell. These unpalatable plants are an important factor in the problem of soil erosion and range deterioration on public range areas.

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